

Energize Indiana Update

Friday, June 27, 2003



Governor Frank O'Bannon discusses the Indiana 21st Century Research and Technology Fund with guests at Thursday's Energize Indiana Forum in Evansville. Pictured from left are: Governor O'Bannon, Christi Bradley of GFI Research Center, Judith Weatherholt of the Southwestern Indiana Regional Development Commission, Tony Armstrong, director of the 21st Century Fund, and Ed Jones of the University of Southern Indiana.

Staff photo

The News in Brief...

Opportunities, partnerships are central themes during visit to Evansville

The O'Bannon-Kernan administration continued its series of Energize Indiana forums in Evansville Thursday at the University of Southern Indiana. Earlier in the day, Governor O'Bannon attended a groundbreaking ceremony for a \$38 million facility at Ivy Tech Southwest Indiana, one of Indiana's community college partners. At the ceremony, he said that "each student walking out of this new building with a diploma in hand will be a symbol of your vision and determination...we are building opportunities for Hoosiers to learn important, marketable skills."

At the Energize Indiana forum, more than 150 guests heard details on components of Energize Indiana, including the 21st Century Research and Technology Fund. The fund provides financial assistance to innovators and entrepreneurs to develop and bring ideas to the marketplace. Already, the fund has made 64 awards and committed \$80 million to projects in a variety of high-tech fields, including bioengineering; life sciences; agriculture, advanced manufacturing; and information technology. A new round of awards – the fifth since the fund was created in 1999 – is scheduled for this year.

For more about Energize Indiana:

IN Department of Commerce

(317) 232-8800

www.indianacommerce.com

IN Department of Workforce Development

(317) 233-5514

www.workforce.IN.gov

Rural development

(317) 232-8876

www.IN.gov/irdc or www.in.gov/oca

The Ports of Indiana

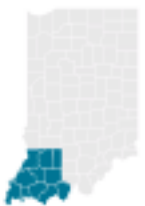
(317) 232-9200

www.portsofindiana.com

The 21st Century Research and Technology Fund

(317) 234-1625

www.21fund.org



Economic profile:

Department of Commerce Region 11

Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Martin, Perry,
Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh and
Warrick counties

With the University of Southern Indiana, Vincennes University, Ivy Tech State College sites, Oakland City University and the University of Evansville, Region 11 offers a broad range of educational opportunities for Hoosiers. Ninety-eight percent of graduates of Evansville's Ivy Tech/community college partnership campus stay in Southwest Indiana to live and work. In addition, Region 11 boasts one of Indiana's three international ports, Southwind Maritime Center near Mt. Vernon.

Success story: Southwestern IN Regional Development Commission

Partnerships are an important component to any effort to create high-wage, high-skill jobs. In 2002, leaders in Southwest Indiana created the Southwestern Indiana Regional Development Commission, a partnership among Gibson, Posey, Vanderburgh and Warrick counties. Its mission is to build community and economic coalitions among service providers to address service gaps in workforce development and training, industrial sectors, rural and urban infrastructure and environmental needs. Commission Director Judy Weatherholt says it best: "The work the commission does helps this area of the state think as a REGION, not any one single city, town or county, to create good jobs and make a great place better."